AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for broadcasting content data from a broadcaster (110) to a plurality of clients, the method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously transmitting the content data to the plurality of clients via an unreliable downlink-only communications pathway;

bi-directionally coupling the plurality of clients to a proxy server to initiate post-processing transactions; and

the broadcaster communicating with the proxy server to provide sufficient information to handle any of the post-processing transactions requested by any one of the plurality of clients.

~~receiving, by a client (120,122, 124,126, 128), broadcasted content data from the broadcaster (110)~~;

determining, by the plurality of clients ~~client (120,122, 124,126, 128)~~, a plurality of available proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ that may be contacted for post-processing after the content data broadcast;

randomly selecting, by the plurality of clients ~~client (120,122, 124,126, 128)~~, one of the available proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ to contact for post-processing after the content data broadcast; and

contacting, by the plurality of clients ~~client (120,122, 124,126,128)~~, the selected proxy server ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ to initiate post-processing.

2.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining, by the plurality of clients ~~client (120,122, 124,126, 128)~~, contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ specifying the

time period in which the proxy servers (130,132, 134,136, 138) may be contacted after the broadcast;

randomly selecting, by the client (120,122, 124,126, 128), a delay time within the contact interval for contacting the selected proxy server (130,132, 134, 136,138) ; and

wherein the selected proxy server (130,132, 134,136, 138) is contacted to initiate post-processing at the delay time.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the plurality of clients client (120,122, 124,126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132,134, 136,138), information pertaining to content data that has or has not been correctly received.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of sending, by the contacted proxy server (130,132, 134,136, 138) to the plurality of clients client (120,122, 124,126, 128), information to reconstruct the content data.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the plurality of clients client (120,122, 124,126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132,134, 136,138), a notification that the content data was either successfully or unsuccessfully received or reconstructed.

6.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of obtaining, by the plurality of clients client (120,122, 124,126, 128) from a digital rights manager, at least one of permission and rights objects to access the content data.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of sending, by the plurality of clients client (120,122, 124,126, 128) to the contacted proxy server (130, 132,134, 136,138), data pertaining to one or more responses by the plurality of clients client (120, 122,124, 126, 128) to prompts within the content data.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the prompts relate to voting or the purchase of an object or service.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further comprising the step of sending, by the plurality of clients ~~client (120,122, 124,126, 128)~~ to the contacted proxy server ~~(130, 132,134, 136,138)~~, a request to obtain additional content data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the further content data is ~~was~~ identified by a URL within the broadcasted content data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further comprising the step of providing, by the broadcaster ~~(110)~~ to each of the proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134, 136,138)~~, at least a portion of the content data.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein information associated with available proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ is embedded in the broadcasted content data as side information.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein information associated with the contact intervals for each availably proxy server ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ is embedded in the broadcasted content data as side information.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further comprising the step of determining one or more proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ prior to the random selection based on an attribute of the plurality of clients ~~client~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the method is performed in a multicast scenario.

16.   (Currently Amended)   The method of <u>claim 1</u> ~~any of the preceding claims~~, further comprising the step of adjusting the number of availably proxy servers ~~(130,132, 134,136, 138)~~ for subsequent broadcasts based on the number of post-processing transactions.

17. - 19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for receiving content data broadcasted from a broadcaster to a plurality of clients, the apparatus comprising:

a reception unit ~~(310)~~ for receiving broadcasted content data from the broadcaster;

a determination unit ~~(320)~~ for determining a plurality of available proxy servers that may be contacted for post-processing after the content data broadcast;

a first random selection ~~(330)~~ unit for randomly selecting one of the available proxy servers to contact for post-processing after the content data broadcast; and

a contact unit ~~(340)~~ for contacting the selected proxy server to initiate post-processing.

21.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the determination unit further determines contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers specifying the time period in which the proxy servers may be contacted after the broadcast; and

wherein the contact unit contacts the selected proxy server to initiate post-processing at a delay time; and further comprising:

a second random selection unit ~~(350)~~ for randomly selecting the delay time within the contact interval for contacting the selected proxy server.

22.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for broadcasting content data to a plurality of clients, the apparatus comprising:

a content data acquisition unit for acquiring content data for broadcast;

a determination unit for determining which of a plurality of proxy servers may be contacted by the plurality of clients for post-processing; and

a broadcast unit for broadcasting the content data to the plurality of clients along with a list specifying the proxy servers that may be contacted for post processing to permit the plurality of clients client to randomly select a proxy server for post-processing, wherein the broadcast unit is adapted for

      simultaneously transmitting the content data to the plurality of clients via an unreliable downlink-only communications pathway; and

      communicating with the proxy server to provide sufficient information to handle any of the post-processing transactions requested by any one of the plurality of clients; and

      means for bi-directionally coupling any one of the plurality of clients to a proxy server to initiate post-processing transactions.

23.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the determination unit further determines contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers specifying the time period in which the proxy servers may be contacted after the broadcast; and

wherein the broadcast unit further broadcasts the contact intervals for each of the available proxy servers to permit the plurality of clients client to randomly select a delay time within the contact interval in which to contact to selected proxy server for post-processing.

24.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of one of claim 22 or 23, wherein said determination unit further determines one or more post-processing transactions that may be initiated by the plurality of clients.

25.   (Currently Amended)   A system comprising:

at least one broadcaster (110) for broadcasting content data and post-processing instructions;

a plurality of clients~~(120, 122,124,126, 128)~~ for receiving the broadcast con- tent data;

a plurality of proxy servers ~~(130,132,134, 136,138)~~ for processing requests from the <u>plurality of</u> clients~~(120,122, 124,126, 128)~~ after the content data is broadcast;

wherein the post-processing instructions identify available proxy servers; and

wherein the plurality of clients~~(120,122,124,126, 128)~~ randomly select and contact one of the available proxy servers ~~(130,132,134, 136,138)~~ for post- processing.